

**SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY**

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March 25, 1999

**VIA TELEFAX (916) 653-9574**

Mr. Mike Ford, Principal Engineer  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Spring HOR Barrier****Dear Mr. Ford:**

Mr. Hildebrand and I have reviewed the documents you provided me earlier this week regarding the proposed installation of the HOR Barrier this spring. Those documents included a previous temporary entry permit issued by Reclamation District No. 544 as well as the Draft Operations Plan for the barrier previously discussed by DWR and SDWA.

Alex and I believe that SDWA could work out an agreeable operations plan with only a few minor changes to the draft you provided. For example, Alex does believe that the minus 0.3 foot standard should be changed to the 0.0 mean sea level standard that was used for our joint point evaluation.

However, our discussions with Reclamation District No. 544 indicate that they believe the risks associated with the proposed operations this year are unacceptable. Specifically, we understand that extensive flow manipulation is anticipated in order to allow the barrier's installation. In addition, we understand that the Bureau and other parties seek to have up to 7,500 CSF (or more) during the barrier's operation. This information indicates that the limits for barrier installation and operation will be approached or exceeded. This of course presents significant risk to the relevant land owners and the levees.

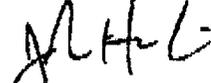
As you know, unanticipated rains during the barrier's operation might increase flows downstream of the dams and thus result in an uncontrollable situation.

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In light of District 544's decision, we do not believe the barrier can be installed this spring and therefore need not finally resolve the operating criteria. I expect District 544's attorney to give you similar notification in the next day or so.

Please call me if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,



JOHN HERRICK

JH/dd

cc: Mr. Alex Hildebrand  
Al Hoslett, Esq.